

Eric Tusz-King



Year Commissioned

May, 1978 by Maritime Conference, Sackville, New Brunswick.

Program of Formation

Centre for Christian Studies, Diploma in Christian Education, 2 year programme.

What called you to Diaconal Ministry?

I felt I had some skills and strong commitment to Christians and churches in the northern hemisphere improving their contribution and relationship to the development and justice issues of the people and churches of the southern hemisphere. 10 Days for World Development had just started a few years previously and the church was promoting international development widely. After trying studies for Ordained Ministry at Atlantic School of Theology for one year and feeling no support there or for an understanding of an educational or social ministry, it was suggested that I transfer to CCS.

Describe some of your experiences of ministry

I have worked in congregational ministry in Moncton, where I was in a team ministry with specific responsibilities for Christian Education, pastoral care and community outreach. That was a great ministry as long as I was working with colleagues who were committed to teaming and respected the specific contributions of Diaconal Ministry. After that I worked in General Council in the then called, Division of World Outreach, responsible for the educational and action programmes of the United Church, relating to the ministries and justice issues of overseas partners. Following that I worked for Maritime Conference doing community development around issues and projects related to socio-economic context of this region. I continued this ministry for 14 years while adding: administering the financial support to congregations and outreach ministries, supporting from the Mission and Service Fund, and training and educating people to be stewardship resources in their presbyteries and congregations. In 2006 I left the employment of the UCC to take up community ministry and am managing EnerGreen Builders Co-operative that builds passive solar homes and retrofits existing homes for better energy efficiency. This ministry expresses my concerns with regard to climate change and my commitment to living with respect in Creation.

How I explain Diaconal Ministry to others ...

I am similar to an Ordained Minister, which you may be familiar with. We receive almost the same type of education, with some unique aspects that highlight our particular strengths and expectations of Diaconal ministry. We generally specialize in education, pastoral care and social ministry. Within the polity or rules of the UC we can do much of what an Ordained Minister can do and are equal in status with the courts of the church.

What gives you the most satisfaction, reward, sense of fulfilment from the ministry you do?

When I work with people to figure what they feel God is wanting them to do and they look in themselves and find some of the skills or gifts to carry out this work and they see a place for me in working with them. When they don't see a place for me to work on their plans that is fine to, but the best experiences are when I can join them on their tasks or journey.

25 January 2009